

On motion of Mr. G. Washington Smith, the Librarian, and Curator, Mr. Peale, were authorized to take measures for the preservation of the MSS. of the Declaration of Independence.

Stated Meeting, November 19.

Present, twenty-three members.

Dr. CHAPMAN, President, in the Chair.

A letter was received and read:—

From the Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Belles-Lettres of Brussels, dated Brussels, 8th October, 1847, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings and Transactions of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. No. 12. November, 1847. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, including Zoology, Botany, and Geology. Vol. XX. No. 133. October, 1847. 8vo.—*From Sir Wm. Jardine, Bart.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. V. November, 1847. No. 59. 8vo.—*From Messrs. Lea & Blanchard.*

An Address delivered before the Chester County Horticultural Society, at West Chester, Pa. September 10, 1847. By Wm. H. Dillingham. 8vo.—*From the Chester County Horticultural Society.*

Address delivered at the opening of the New Hall of the Athenæum of Philadelphia, on Monday, October 18, 1847. By Thomas I. Wharton, Esq. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

The London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, and Journal of Science. Third Series. No. 208. October, 1847. 8vo.

The Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal. Conducted by Prof. Jameson. No. 86. Vol. XLIII. April—October, 1847. 8vo. Astronomische Nachrichten. Nos. 610 and 611. 4to.

Dr. Franklin Bache announced the death of the Hon. Alexander Everett, a member of this Society, on the 29th of June last.

A letter was read from Richard Owen, Esq. to the Hon. Edward Everett, President of the University of Cambridge, Mass., containing some remarks upon Dr. Meigs' paper on the generation of *Didelphis Virginiana*, and expressed his desire to obtain a specimen of a gravid female of this species for the Hunterian Museum.

Dr. Meigs made some remarks upon this letter, defending his belief that the young opossum is developed from a placenta.

Dr. Duglison made some remarks upon the same subject, agreeing with Prof. Owen.

Prof. Frazer read an extract from a letter of Prof. Mitchell, of Cincinnati, stating that he believed he had obtained two positions of Lassel's satellite of Neptune, nearly 180° apart, and with an interval of about six days.

Pending nominations, from No. 197 to 202, were read.

Mr. Ord called for the consideration of the by-laws prepared by him at the last meeting, which being ordered, the substitute offered by him in place of chapter I., section X. of the Laws of the Society, was unanimously adopted, (twenty-three members voting in the affirmative,) as follows, viz:—

“Such members as reside within ten miles of the Hall of the Society, and such others as desire to vote at the meetings and elections, shall pay an admission fee of ten dollars; and annually thereafter, on the first Friday of January, a contribution of ten dollars; but should the annual contribution be not paid on or before the third Friday in July, then shall ten per centum be added to the same for each and every year that it shall remain unpaid.”